Export of fruits, nuts and leather to Japan'

2359. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DGFT has recommended that edible fruits, nuts, leather and articles of saddlery have an excellent market in Japan;

(b) whether a delegation to Japan concentrating on these items had been sent in the last fiscal year;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has to give the necessary sanitary and hygiene assurances to Japan to import indian fruits and nuts;

(d) if so, what are the demands of Japan with regard to certain sanitation and hygiene condition which Government has neglected; and

(e) the steps proposed to concentrate on the export of fruits, nuts and leather goods to Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Japan has imposed a ban on import of Indian mangoes and grapes owing to presence of certain pests. They had sought vapour heat treatment (VHT) of the mangoes to be exported to that country. Necessary equipments for the same was installed and test results of VHT treatment given to the Japanese authorities. Survey data revealing that there is no infestation of Bactrocera caryeae fruit fly in Indian mango has also been provided to them. In the case of grapes, the Japanese authorities have been informed that there is no incidence of the fruit fly Bactorcera dorsalias. A technical team of Japanese quarantine authorities will visit India during mango season 2006 to conduct confirmation test for 100% disinfestations of fruit flies.

(e) Steps taken by the Government to boost export of fruits and nuts include setting up of Agri-Export Zones (AEZs), participation in important trade fairs, organisation of buyer seller meets and financial assistance under Plan schemes of Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA) for development of infrastructure, market development, quality development etc. As regards leather, the Council for Leather Exports will organize appropriate market promotion programmes in consultation with the Indian Embassy in Japan.